

K-7018

NPIC/CSD 32/66
13 JANUARY 1966
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VEHICULAR ACTIVITY
ROUTE 15, NORTH VIETNAM
1756N 10549E

1. SIGNIFICANCE:

THIS BRIEFING BOARD DEPICTS A HIGH LEVEL OF VEHICULAR ACTIVITY ON NORTH VIETNAM ROUTE 15, APPROXIMATELY SIXTEEN NM NORTH OF MU GIA PASS AT THE LAOTIAN BORDER.

2. COLLATERAL:

COLLATERAL REPORTS THAT NORTH VIETNAM ROUTE 15 AND ROUTE 12, ITS EXTENSION TO THE JUNCTION WITH ROUTE 23 IN LAOS, IS THE BEGINNING OF THE SUPPLY ROUTE FOR TROOPS IN SOUTHERN LAOS. ROUTE 15 IS AN IMPORTANT ROUTE CONNECTING ROUTE 1A IN NORTH VIETNAM WITH THE LAOTIAN HIGHWAY NETWORK IN THE SOUTHERN PANHANDLE REGION. THIS 82-MILE ROUTE HAS A SURFACE OF IMPROVED EARTH AND GRAVEL, GENERALLY IN FAIR CONDITION. SURFACE WIDTHS VARY FROM [REDACTED] TWENTY FEET. OFF ROAD DISPERSAL AND MOVEMENT ARE AFFECTED BY FLOODS IN THE LOWLANDS AND BY LANDSLIDES AND DENSE FORESTS IN THE MOUNTAIN AREAS.

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SINCE THE PATHET LAO GAINED CONTROL OF THIS AREA IN 1961, THE MU GIA PASS AREA OF ROUTE 12, ON THE LAOS/NORTH VIETNAM BORDER SIXTY NM SOUTHSOUTHWEST OF VINH, HAS BEEN CONSIDERED A PRIMARY POINT OF ENTRY INTO LAOS FROM NORTH VIETNAM FOR SUPPLIES AND TROOPS DESTINED TO SUPPORT THE VIET CONG EFFORT IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM. THE PATTERN OF TRUCK TRAFFIC, THE CONSTRUCTION OF MU GIA PASS ARMY BARRACKS AND SUPPLY POINT, AND THE EFFORTS TO

[REDACTED]
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IMPROVE AND REPAIR THE ROAD EMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS AREA AS A VITAL LINK.

PHOTOGRAPHY OF [REDACTED] REVEALS THAT THE MU GIA PASS CHOKING POINT (1735N 10544E) HAS BEEN INTERDICITED AS A RESULT OF AN AIR STRIKE. PORTIONS OF THE BY-PASS ROAD OBSERVED ON PHOTOGRAPHY, HOWEVER, APPEAR TO BE SERVICEABLE.

3. MISSION READOUT:

PHOTOGRAPHY OF [REDACTED], REVEALS A HIGH LEVEL OF VEHICULAR ACTIVITY ON ROUTE 15 IN NORTH VIETNAM. AT LEAST SIXTY-EIGHT VEHICLES (NOT ALL SHOWN ON GRAPHIC), SOME CAMOUFLAGED, ARE OBSERVED ON OR NEAR ROUTE 15 BETWEEN 1820N 10550E AND 1750N 10547E.

THE HEAVIEST CONCENTRATION OF TRAFFIC IS OBSERVED IN THE VICINITY OF 1755N 10549E WHERE THIRTY-SIX VEHICLES ARE OBSERVED SOUTHBOUND IN CONVOY FORMATION. THESE VEHICLES ARE LOCATED NEAR AN ACTIVE REST AND REFUEL AREA LOCATED JUST EAST OF ROUTE 15 AT 1756N 10549E. AN ADDITIONAL TWENTY VEHICLES AND PROBABLE OPEN STORAGE ARE OBSERVED AT THE REST AND REFUEL AREA. VEHICULAR TRACK ACTIVITY IS OBSERVED IN THE AREA.

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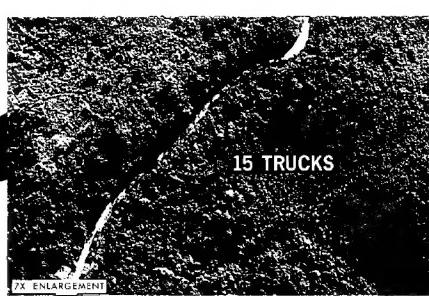
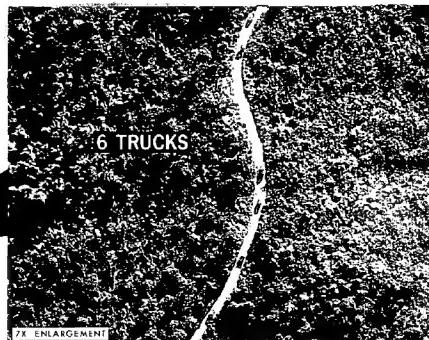
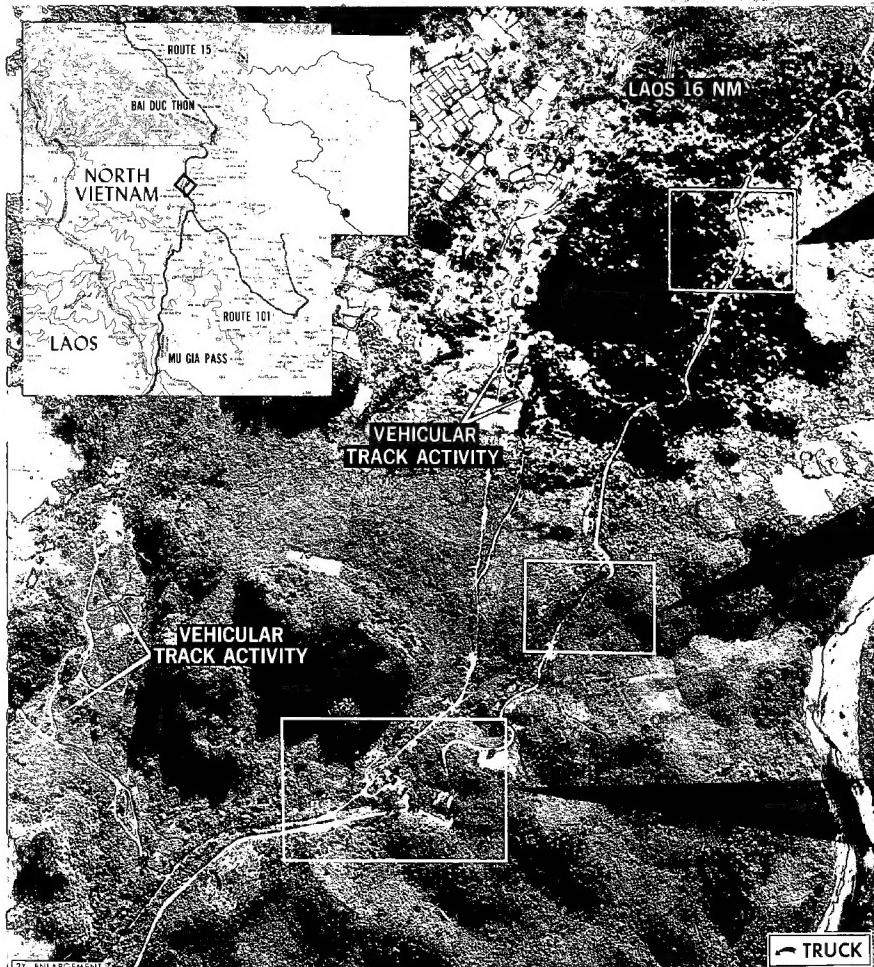
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**VEHICULAR ACTIVITY
ROUTE 15, NORTH VIETNAM
17-56N 105-49E**

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2X ENLARGEMENT

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5X ENLARGEMENT

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